Please cancel Claims 6 through 8, 10, 11, and 13 through 22 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please add Claims 33 through 46 to read as follows:

1 - 22. (Canceled)

23.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method comprising the steps of:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of the original image.

24.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein the rotation process is executed based on least luminosity of the original image as a rotation center.

25.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein the correction process includes a shift process for the color solid of the original image.

26.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein whether or not the original image is an image captured by using a color filter or an image acquired by taking a specific taking scene is judged, based on an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image, and the correction process is executed to a predetermined extent or is not executed, according to a judged result.

27.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein the correction process is not executed or is executed to a predetermined extent, according to a result of comparing an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image with a predetermined value.

28.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 27, wherein the predetermined extent of the correction process is manually set.

29.   (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein a rotation axis of the rotation process is determined by designating a hue to which the correction process is not executed.

30. (Previously Presented) An image processing method according to Claim 23, wherein the correction process is not executed according to a direction of the axis of the color solid of the original image.

31. (Previously Presented) An image processing apparatus comprising:

detection means for detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining means for obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

correction means for executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein said correction means executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of the original image.

32. (Previously Presented) A computer readable memory medium in which a program of an image processing method is stored, said program comprising the codes for:

detecting a luminosity of a highlight point and a shadow point of an original image;

obtaining a hue of the highlight point and the shadow point from plural pixels of the luminosity; and

executing a correction process on the original image based on the highlight point, the shadow point and the hue,

wherein the correction process executed in said executing step executes a color fog correction by matching a color solid axis of the original image with an axis indicating the luminosity, by executing at least a rotation process on the color solid axis of the original image.

33.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the rotation process is executed based on least luminosity of the original image as a rotation center.

34.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the correction process includes a shift process for the color solid of the original image.

35.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein whether or not the original image is an image captured by using a color filter or an image acquired by taking a specific taking scene is judged, based on an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image, and the correction process is executed to a predetermined extent or is not executed, according to a judged result.

36.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the correction process is not executed or is executed to a predetermined extent, according to a result of comparing an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image with a predetermined value.

37.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the predetermined extent of the correction process is manually set.

38.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein a rotation axis of the rotation process is determined by designating a hue to which the correction process is not executed.

39.   (New) An image processing apparatus according to Claim 31, wherein the correction process is not executed according to a direction of the axis of the color solid of the original image.

40.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein the rotation process is executed based on least luminosity of the original image as a rotation center.

41.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein the correction process includes a shift process for the color solid of the original image.

42.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein whether or not the original image is an image captured by using a color filter or an image acquired by taking a specific taking scene is judged, based on an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image, and the correction process is executed to a predetermined extent or is not executed, according to a judged result.

43.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein the correction process is not executed or is executed to a predetermined extent, according to a result of comparing an inclination of the axis of the color solid of the original image with a predetermined value.

44.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 43, wherein the predetermined extent of the correction process is manually set.

45.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein a rotation axis of the rotation process is determined by designating a hue to which the correction process is not executed.

46.   (New) A computer readable memory medium according to Claim 32, wherein the correction process is not executed according to a direction of the axis of the color solid of the original image.